



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENT CHARGING WOMAN WITH FRAUD IN OBTAINING FEDERAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION

SALT LAKE CITY – A grand jury returned a 21-count indictment Wednesday afternoon charging Trudy L. Gillman, 58, of Roy, with making false or fraudulent statements to obtain federal workers' compensation and mail and wire fraud in connection with an alleged scheme she executed to apply for and receive benefits based on her employment with the United States Postal Service. Based on her claims, the indictment alleges she received thousands of dollars in disability payments to which she was not entitled.

According to the indictment, Gillman was employed by the United States Postal Service in various administrative and management capacities, primarily in the Ogden and Salt Lake City areas, from around January 1981 through November 1998. Based on a series of events she alleges she experienced while working at the USPS from 1995 to 1998, Gilman claimed she was completely disabled and unable to be gainfully employed in any

occupation. According to the indictment, the events included receiving an anonymous note claiming she was responsible for the death of an employee; receiving an anonymous pornographic collage; learning of pornographic writings on the wall of the men's restroom at the Ogden USPS Office; experiencing class breaking in a post office box nearby where she was seated at the Ogden office; and being moved more than any other supervisor in the Ogden office at various times during her employment.

Gillman represented to medical professionals that she suffered from extreme stress and was unable to go back to work again; experienced extreme difficulty going anywhere alone; felt constant physical threat from males; felt very frightened when she went places and was afraid of being confronted in public; claimed that running into people from USPS or seeing USPS vehicles was traumatic and that she could not enter a post office; experienced thoughts of death; and was unable to attend social events, among others.

According to the indictment, she created the false impression that she was mentally disabled and unable to work in any capacity. Based on these representations, mental health professionals diagnosed or reaffirmed the diagnosis of others that Gillman suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, agoraphobia, anxiety, panic attacks, and depression, and that she could not work in any capacity.

These mental health professionals then submitted their diagnoses and observations to the Office of Workers Compensation Programs in the U.S. Department of Labor, which administers workers compensation for the postal service. Employees who are permanently and totally disabled are entitled to receive, tax free, 75 percent of their salary. To be eligible for permanent, total disability payments, the employee must be unable to be gainfully employed in any capacity by any employer. Applicants seeking workers compensation benefits for work-related disability must submit medical evidence demonstrating that they are, in fact, disabled and that the disability is work-related. Based on those submissions, a determination is made about the extent of disability and the payments an applicant would be eligible for.

Based on her misleading self-reports and the resulting false diagnoses, Gillman received permanent, total disability payments to which she was not entitled, according to the indictment. She received monthly federal workers

compensation payments ranging from approximately \$3,060 to \$3,390 from around December 1999 to the date of the indictment and lump-sum payments, totaling approximately \$468,838.80.

The indictment alleges that Gillman's conduct and activities during the period in which she received monthly workers compensation payments demonstrated that she was capable of being gainfully employed. Among other things, she renewed her driver's license and, under penalty of law, stated that said she suffered from no psychiatric or psychological conditions; shopped in crowded shopping malls and stores; made more than 20 trips on airlines; vacationed outside of Utah; voluntarily entered a postal facility; drove a vehicle alone; interacted with strangers, including men, in a normal fashion at fitness facilities and airports; jogged alone in the outdoors; and generally functioned in public areas with no difficulties.

A summons will be issued to Gillman to appear in federal court for an initial appearance on the indictment. The first nine counts of the indictment, false statements or fraud to obtain federal employee's compensation, carry potential penalties of five years in prison per count. The mail and wire fraud counts carry potential penalties of up to 20 years in prison. Each count also includes a potential fine of \$250,000. Defendants charged in indictments are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

The charges in today's indictment follow a three-year investigation by special agents from the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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